

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ERDA-05 SAJ-01 OES-06 /079 W

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R 070600Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6377

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, PK, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-PAK TALKS ON NUCLEAR SUBJECTS

REF: NEW DELHI 9593 (NOTAL), ISLAMABAD 6700 (NOTAL),
NEW DELHI 9782 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE FOLLOWED UP EMBASSY NEW DELHI MESSAGE 9593 WHICH REPORTED THAT BRITS HERE HAD PICKED UP WORD FROM MFA DIRECTOR FOR INDIA ZAFAR HILALY THAT DURING INDO-PAK TALKS IN MAY PAKS HAD ASKED INDIANS TO CONSIDER WHETHER THEY COULD FIND SOME MULTILATERAL FORUM OR CONTEXT IN WHICH THEY COULD STATE UNEQUIVOCALLY THEIR INTENTION NOT TO MANUFACTURE OR USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. OUR SOUNDINGS HERE SUGGEST THAT THERE IS PRESENTLY LITTLE PROSPECT FOR ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THIS NUCLEAR ISSUE.

2. ACCORDING TO BRIT EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY BURDESS, WHO WAS SOURCE OF INFORMATION PASSED TO EMBASSY NEW DELHI VIA UK HIGH COMMISSION THERE, HILALY HAD GONE ON TO SAY THAT THE INDIANS HAD REPLIED TO THE PAK QUESTION BY
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STATING ONCE AGAIN THAT THE GOI HAD ALREADY MADE A

UNILATERAL DECLARATION FORESWEARING THE USE OR MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE INDIANS, HILALY HAD RECALLED, HAD "NOT EXCLUDED" POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PAKS ON THE QUESTION BUT WERE CLEARLY NOT INTERESTED IN A MULTILATERAL APPROACH.

3. HAYAT MEHDI, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOUTH ASIA (AND HILALY'S BOSS) SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THE POL COUNSELOR THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO INDICATION FROM THE INDIAN SIDE THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO "CONSIDER" A SOUTH ASIAN MULTILATERAL DECLARATION IF OTHER REGIONAL COUNTRIES WANTED IT, A PLEDGE HE RECALLED KEWAL SINGH, THEN INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY, HAD MADE AT THE ABORTIVE NEW DELHI INDO-PAK NEGOTIATIONS IN MAY 1975. (ISLAMABAD 4845, 29 MAY 1975) ASKED IF OTHER SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES HAD INDEED EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SUCH A MULTILATERAL DECLARATION, MEHDI SAID THAT NEPAL AND SRI LANKA WERE INTERESTED, BUT ADMITTEDLY NOT TO THE POINT OF SENDING THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DELHI TO ARGUE THE CASE. THEY DID NOT IN ANY EVENT WANT TO DISTURB THEIR BILATERAL TIES WITH INDIA OVER THE ISSUE, HE CONCEDED. MEHDI SAID IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION THAT THE PAKS HAD NOT APPROACHED DACCA ON THE MATTER. (THE BDG WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RECEPTIVE IN MAY 1975 BUT MIGHT HAVE CHANGED ITS TUNE OF SOUNDED OUT LATER.) MEHDI ALSO MENTIONED THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION A LA OAU WHICH COULD SERVE AS A FORUM FOR A MULTILATERAL DECLARATION, THE GOP HAD AT ONE POINT SOUNDED OUT THE INDIANS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A REGIONAL CONFERENCE. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE PROPOSAL HAD RECEIVED A VERY COLD SHOULDER. WHEN THE POL COUNSELOR MENTIONED THE INDIAN MAY 1975 BILATERAL DECLARATION PROPOSAL, MEHDI'S REPLY SUGGESTED THAT THE PAKS WERE NOT INTERESTED.

4. MEHDI SAID THAT THE GOP WILL SEEK TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR FREE ZONE PROPOSAL IN THE UPCOMING UNGA. HE RESISTED CALLING THIS A MAJOR PIECE OF DIPLOMATIC BUSINESS AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PAKS WOULD NOT GIVE THE ISSUE THE SAME EMPHASIS THEY GAVE IT IN 1974 IN THE WAKE OF THE INDIAN PNE BUT WOULD

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UPGRADE IT OVER LAST YEAR'S LOW-KEY APPROACH. MEHDI SAID HE SAW LITTLE PROSPECT THAT THE TWO SIDES COULD AGREE ON A SINGLE TEXT, THOUGH THE PAKS WOULD CERTAINLY TRY. ("INDIA WILL BE THE FIRST COUNTRY WE WILL APPROACH.") HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THE INDIANS WOULD STAY WITH THE POSITION THEY HAD ADOPTED ON THE SANFZ IN 1974 AS EMBODIED IN THE TEXT OF THE GOI RESOLUTION. (MFA ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NAIK TELLS US THAT THE GOP IS LOBBYING

WITH ITS NON-ALIGNED FRIENDS FOR SUPPORT OF A NUCLEAR
FREE ZONE RESOLUTION AT COLOMBO-ISLAMABAD 6756). THE
PAKS ALSO PUSHED THE ISSUE, SUCCESSFULLY BY THEIR
LIGHTS, AT THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE AT
ISTANBUL IN MAY.)
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